AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 8 (canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A backlight unit comprising:

a first optical sheet having coefficients of expansion different between a first direction and a second direction in a plane with the coefficient of linear expansion in the first direction larger than that in the second direction; and

a second optical sheet that is an optical sheet different from the first optical sheet and that is disposed adjacently to the first optical sheet and in a separable manner in a direction normal to the plane thereof, wherein, the coefficient of linear expansion of the second optical sheet in the direction corresponding to the first direction is approximated to the coefficient of linear expansion of the first optical sheet in the first direction.

10. (Previously Presented) The backlight unit according to claim 9, wherein

the first optical sheet is a reflective polarizing sheet;

the second optical sheet is at least any one of the sheets selected from the group consisting of a prism sheet, a wave sheet, a diffusion sheet, and an ITO sheet; and

the first direction is the transmission axis direction of the reflective polarizing sheet.

11. (Previously Presented) The backlight unit according to claim 9, wherein the second optical sheet is formed of at least any one of the materials selected from the group consisting of a polycarbonate resin, a polystyrene resin, a polyacetal resin, and a nylon 6 resin.

12. (Previously Presented) The backlight unit according to claim 9, wherein the second optical sheet is arranged on the side opposite to light sources provided in the backlight unit with respect to the first optical sheet.

13. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

the backlight unit according to claim 9; and

a liquid crystal panel irradiated with light from the backlight unit.

14. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

the backlight unit according to claim 9; and

a liquid crystal panel irradiated with light from the backlight unit, wherein

the first optical sheet is a reflective polarizing sheet, and

the transmission axis direction of the reflective polarizing sheet and the short side direction of the liquid crystal panel are arranged in parallel.

15. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 14, wherein the prism sheet or the wave sheet is used for the second optical sheet and an array direction of the prism or the wave is arranged with a rotation around the axis of the normal direction of the screen by a certain angle with respect to the vertical direction or the horizontal direction of pixel array provided on the liquid crystal panel.

16. (Previously Presented) A backlight unit comprising:

a first optical sheet with a coefficient of linear cxpansion larger than a predetermined value in a first direction in a plane; and

a second optical sheet that is an optical sheet different from the first optical sheet and that is disposed adjacently to the first optical sheet in a separable manner and in a direction normal to the plane thereof, where in the coefficient of linear expansion of the second optical sheet in the direction corresponding to the first direction is approximated to the coefficient of linear expansion of the first optical sheet in the first direction.

17. (Previously Presented) The backlight unit according to claim 16, wherein

the first optical sheet is a reflective polarizing sheet;

the second optical sheet is at least any one of the sheets selected from the group consisting of a prism sheet, a wave sheet, a diffusion sheet, and an ITO sheet; and

the first direction is the transmission axis direction of the reflective polarizing sheet.

18. (Previously Presented) The backlight unit according to claim 16, wherein the second optical sheet is formed of at least any one of the materials selected from the group consisting of a polycarbonate resin, a polystyrene resin, a polyacetal resin, and a nylon 6 resin.

19. (Previously Presented) The backlight unit according to claim 16, wherein the second optical sheet is

arranged on the side opposite to light sources provided in the backlight unit with respect to the first optical sheet.

20. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

the backlight unit according to claim 16 ; and

a liquid crystal panel irradiated with light from the backlight unit.

21. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

the backlight unit according to claim 16; and

a liquid crystal panel irradiated with light from the backlight unit, wherein

the first optical sheet is a reflective polarizing sheet, and

the transmission axis direction of the reflective polarizing sheet and the short side direction of the liquid crystal panel are arranged in parallel.

22. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 20, wherein the prism sheet or the wave sheet is used for the second optical sheet and an array direction of the prism or the wave is arranged with a rotation around the axis of the normal direction of the screen by a certain angle with respect to the vertical direction or the horizontal direction of pixel array provided on the liquid crystal panel.

23. (New) A backlight unit comprising:

a reflective polarizing sheet having coefficients of expansion different between a first direction and a second direction in a plane with the coefficient of linear expansion in the first direction larger than that in the second direction; and

a second optical sheet that is an optical sheet different from the reflective polarizing sheet and that is disposed adjacently to the reflective polarizing sheet and in a separable manner in a direction normal to the plane thereof, wherein, the coefficient of linear expansion of the second optical sheet in the direction corresponding to the first direction is approximated to the coefficient of linear expansion of the first optical sheet in the first direction,

wherein the second optical sheet is arranged on the side opposite to light sources provided in the backlight unit with respect to the reflective polarizing sheet.